

Appl. No. 09/920,783
Anst. Dated 02/25/2005
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed November 30, 2004. In the Office Action, claims 4, 13, 15-19, 21-27 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected basic claim, but indicates that the claims contain patentable subject matter. Applicant has placed 4, 13, 16 and 21 into independent form. Claims 1-3 and 20 have been cancelled without prejudice. In addition, claims 5-7 have been amended to depend on new independent claim 4 while claims 28 & 31 have been amended to depend on new independent claim 21. Applicant respectfully requests that independent claims 4, 13, 16 and 21 and all claims that depend therefrom are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, claim 14 was objected to based on an informality. Applicant has corrected the informality and respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 20, 28, 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Taura (USP 6,067,332). Claims 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Taura in view of Harms (USP 6,249,539) and claims 29, 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Taura in view of Alisobhani (USP 6,760,393). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections in their entirety. However, the above-identified placement of claims 4, 13, 16 and 21 into independent form overcomes these rejections.

Hence, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the outstanding §103(a) rejections.

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Conclusion

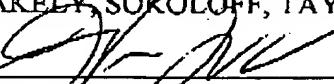
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 02/25/2005

By


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Date: 02/25/2005


Susan McFarlane

02/25/2005

Date